



# Department of Justice

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## **JURY CONVICTS TWO IN EIGHT-STATE TRAFFICKING RING**

*17 others have pled guilty, awaiting sentencing Ohio Organized Crime Investigations  
Commission led team of agencies*

DAYTON - A United States District Court jury here today convicted Dayton market owners Fethi Younes, age 34, and Yahia Alcharbaji, age 35, of conspiracy to receive, possess and transport stolen property in interstate commerce.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro; Donald Meeks, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General; Stanley J. Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division; and other agencies in the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission task force announced the verdict handed down today before United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose. The jury returned the verdict following a trial that began October 11, 2005.

The charges stem from their participation in a vast network that trafficked stolen merchandise and food stamps through inner-city markets in the Dayton area. Younes was the proprietor of two inner-city markets: Rick's Grocery at 911 Huffman Ave, Dayton and Shop'N Save Market at 1413 N. Main St., Dayton. Alcharbaji was the proprietor of One Stop Wash and Shop at 2229 E. Main St., Dayton.

Members of the conspiracy would buy or barter for merchandise brought in by thieves, shoplifters, narcotics users and others and pay them a fraction of the retail value of the merchandise. They then took the stolen property to storage locations where the merchandise was "cleaned" of security tags, identifying store price tags, or labels then re-packaged for shipment to wholesalers. Testimony during the trial established criminal interstate connections between this conspiracy and the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Florida, New York, California, and Texas. The merchandise included infant formula, diabetic blood glucose test strips, over-the-counter medications, razor blades, health and beauty aids, clothes and other consumer products.

Younes and Alcharbaji were among 20 people indicted following the execution of 12 search warrants on January 22, 2004. Seventeen others who were also indicted on January 28, 2004 have pled guilty.

A task force under the direction of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission conducted the investigation. Agencies participating in the investigation, arrests and execution of the search warrants include:

Centerville Police Department  
Dayton Police Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General  
German Township Police Department  
Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation  
Kettering Police Department  
Miamisburg Police Department  
Montgomery County Sheriff David Vore's Office  
Moraine Police Department  
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation  
Ohio Department of Public Safety's Investigative Unit  
Perry Township Police Department  
Tactical Crime Suppression Unit (Montgomery County)

Each man faces up to five years imprisonment. Judge Rose will set a date for sentencing.

“For such a case to succeed, law enforcement agencies must cooperate and share information throughout the course of the investigation,” Lockhart said. “This two-year effort dismantled an organization that moved stolen products all over the United States.”

Lockhart commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dwight Keller and Margaret Quinn who prosecuted the case.

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